

Compost Use and Requirements in the City of Emeryville

Compost Use for Municipal
Landscapes Workshop

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City of Emeryville

Background

- As part of the new Municipal Stormwater Permit requirements in 2004, the City of Emeryville reviewed all its policies, codes and standards. It was found that nitrified soil conditioners (NSC) were required by the municipal code in new landscapes as a water conservation measure.
- Staff's proposal to amend the code by switching compost for NSC was approved by the City Council in December of 2005.

City Requirements

- **COMPOST:** 3 cubic yards of compost per thousand square feet of landscaped area must be used as the soil amendment in all landscaping in place of NSC or other products containing synthetic fertilizers including tablets and granules.

Allowable Compost products:

A. Grover Landscaping – “Wondergrow Premium Compost”

866-764-5765 or 209-545-4401

B. Jepson Prairie – “Four Course Compost”

<http://www.jepsonprairieorganics.com/buycompost.htm>

- **MULCH:** 3 inches of recycled wood trimming mulch over all bare soil areas except within one foot radius of tree trunks.

Allowable Mulch products:

A. Grover Landscaping - "deco mulch" or "arbor mulch"

B. Greenwaste Recycle Yard - "Treeincarnation Mulch" or "Mixed and aged" mulches. www.greenwasterecycleyard.com/products.htm

Bay Friendly Landscaping:

- As of Dec. 2005, locally produced organic certified, urban feed-stock compost and mulch in all new landscapes required by code.
- As of 2006, BFL required for all vegetated Stormwater treatment areas.
- As of 2006, BFL required in Operations and Maintenance Agreements for Stormwater Treatment systems. Includes OMRI listed products, compost, mulch, and Bay-Friendly qualified landscape contractors.
- As of May 08, BFL required for all new City-owned landscapes including those installed by private developers within the City Right-of-Way or other public areas as part of their conditions of approval.
- Spring 09 - Draft ordinance would extend BFL to new development projects that are “Public Private Partnerships”

Examples of Installations

- Pulte Homes beginning to use compost in their other projects outside of the City.
- Bay Street Village required to construct BFL Demonstration garden with educational signage, maintain the plaza using a BF qualified Landscape Contractor, and use the BFL maintenance specifications in their contract.
- New City Park to be Bay-Friendly including compost etc.
- Many smaller projects



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